

From: William Meyer
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 9:32pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I use Microsoft products, both in my work, and in my life. I am a software designer who has created three generations of video servers based on Microsoft Windows. These are among the most cost-effective of such products on the market today, and they empower broadcasters in small market stations, and educational and religious stations, which would otherwise be unable to afford such technology.

I strenuously resent the government's characterization of me and my colleagues as "victims" of Microsoft. I am by no means helpless, and I do have alternatives to Microsoft products; I use Microsoft products because they serve my needs well. No one has the right to dictate to me what software I will use, least of all my own government.

This country, and at times, the government and courts, seem entirely irrational in their view of business. Productive employment is created by private business (such as Microsoft), not by government, which is more properly viewed as the administrative overhead of running the country.

I urge you to bear in mind that the original complaint against Microsoft was voiced, not by any consumer, but by Microsoft's wealthy and large competitors. Competition is healthy, but these companies seemed to prefer that the government do what they could not: to overpower Microsoft. That their own business plans failed does not justify having the government damage a highly successful company. We are guaranteed by the Constitution the right to the "pursuit of happiness", not to happiness unearned.

The politicians who have sided with detractors of Microsoft in this are in danger of supporting unequal treatment of companies under the law. As a corporation is a legal fiction which conveniently equates to a person, so it must be viewed that any corporation is as entitled to equal treatment as is any other citizen. The alternative only fosters increased corruption in government.

I am tired of hearing the phrase "rule of law" bandied about by those who would apply it selectively. I am tired of the seemingly ceaseless attempts of our politicians to tax or legislate out of existence companies which provide many thousands of jobs for citizens. I want to see America the most successful and capitalist economy in the world -- not see it throttled and abused by politicians (and even courts) whose own efforts create no part of the gross domestic product.

Microsoft has a fundamental right to its corporate property, just as I have a fundamental right to my own property. These rights are assured by the Constitution. They are also jeopardized by uneven application of ill-conceived law.

I call upon the Court, and upon the Department of Justice to preserve and protect these rights, not to dismantle them. This is, after all, the proper duty of the government, to protect and defend the rights of citizens, from whom their power obtains.

Best regards,

William Meyer

CC: activism@moraldefense.com@inetgw, letters@capitalis...